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## **SCITECH HIGH JOINS GATES FOUNDATION'S HIGH TECH HIGH LEARNING NETWORK**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Harrisburg's innovative SciTech High School today received national distinction with its selection as one of the members of the prestigious national High Tech High Learning Network, Director Jed Wallace announced today.

Mayor Stephen R. Reed said the addition of Harrisburg's SciTech High to the Gates Foundation's High Tech High Learning Network is recognition that immediately thrusts the new math and science magnet school into the forefront of contemporary American public educational facilities. The designation includes financial support and an array of other Learning Network support services and programs offered to participating schools across the country.

The Gates Foundation is designating up to fifteen high schools across the nation to comprise the Learning Network. Thus far, twelve have been selected. Foundation officials advised the city that Harrisburg's program, while only one year in operation, has further advanced than all but one of the schools they have reviewed, most of which have been in operation longer.

"SciTech High's selection as part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's High Tech High Learning Network is one of the most significant independent endorsements of our efforts to reform public education in Harrisburg," said Mayor Reed. "It means the work being done in Harrisburg continues to have national implications. While the designation brings with it substantial charitable support, it just as importantly provides our students with ready access to some of the finest academic programs and ideas in the world. SciTech High's addition to the HTH Learning Network catapults our students into a very select national group."

A collaboration between Harrisburg University for Science and Technology and the Harrisburg School District, SciTech High features a ninth through twelfth grade curriculum that is focused on utilizing technology to prepare students for higher education and successful careers. Admission to the school is open to students throughout the region. SciTech High is temporarily located on the campus of the Rowland Middle School on Allison Hill. Next fall it will occupy its new downtown campus at 215 South Market Street.

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Melvyn Schiavelli, President of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, announced that renovations of the downtown campus are on schedule.

“Our state of the art facility will facilitate a new approach to teaching,” stated Schiavelli. “The \$400,000 grant that accompanies the affiliation will help provide teachers and students with cutting edge technology and insure our students are expanding their horizons.”

High Tech High Learning director Jed Wallace said they were very impressed with SciTech High and believes its mission is representative of the High Tech High Learning Network’s primary goals, which include integrating technical and academic education in a school that prepares students for post-secondary education and leadership in the high technology industry; increases the number of educationally disadvantaged students in math and engineering who succeed in high school and post-secondary education; and provides all HTHL students with an extraordinary education that prepares them to be thoughtful, engaged citizens who can overcome the many leadership challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

“SciTech High joins a very unique cadre of schools in this nation,” said Wallace, “and the citizens of Harrisburg can take great pride in its selection to the High Tech High network. Even more significant is that SciTech is one of the few public schools in America to join the Network, as most of its eleven new sister schools are privately operated Charter schools. Harrisburg is leading the way in public education in this Nation, and we are very pleased to welcome you to the High Tech High Learning Network.”

Wallace noted that the other Network schools include High Tech High in San Diego, CA, San Carlos High School in San Carlos, CA, Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School in Chicago, IL, New Urban High School in Clackamas, OR, City High School in Tucson, AZ, High Tech Highs in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, CA, Camino Nuevo in Los Angeles, CA, MAST High School in Albuquerque, N.M., Cambridge Community Charter School in Cambridge, MA, and the New Bedford Global Learning Center in New Bedford, MA.

The Harrisburg University of Science and Technology is a comprehensive university that integrates a regional math and science magnet high school and business incubator within its university programs which will open in September 2005. To learn more about the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, visit [www.hbg-univ.org](http://www.hbg-univ.org). For more information regarding the High Tech High Learning Network visit [www.hightechhigh.org](http://www.hightechhigh.org).

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